



"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!"
— St. John 19:26.

"Then saith he to the disciple. Behold thy mother! and from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."—St. John 19:27.

Vol. 2 No. 8

GRABILL, INDIANA

May 15, 1945

Diary of Trip to Palestine

Walter J. Graf

(This is the second in a series of installments on Palestine. Walter J. Graf is the son of Elder Ernest Graf Sr.)

We left Khorramshahr about 5:00 o'clock that evening, by truck, to Basra in Iraq. When we crossed over the Shat-el-Arab River we had to stop so that they could put up the bridge. In the exact center of the bridge they've cut out a big chunk about 50 feet long which they submerge when boats come up the river. They must have the section weighted very evenly, because they bring it up by hand operated winches, the motive power furnished by Indian soldiers. When it came up there were a half dozen big fishes caught in it, and by the happy look on the Indians' faces, it looked like a fresh fish fry coming up. There was a 30-minute time change as we crossed over into Iraq, the only change of the entire trip.

Got onto the train at about 7:00 o'clock in the evening and she finally pulled out at 8:00. This line is known as the B. B. and C. I. Railway—meaning Basra, Baghdad, and Central Iraq. It's a narrow gauge line, and our train had old wooden cars throughout. We got what we thought was a lousy car, but judging by the coach we drew for the return trip we were indeed fortunate. Each man

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THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

Elder George Yergler, La Crosse, Indiana

In summarizing the Old Testament and the New Testament, there is revealed unto us the condition and course of life. In the beginning of the Creation, God created man in His own image, and was well pleased when he beheld His works. He created man in the innocent state of life, and placed him in the Garden of Ed-

TREASURED VERSES

Psalm 23, Verses 1-4

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

To this creation, God gave knowledge and understanding above all other creations. In this knowledge man was able to name all things that God created. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone," so He made for him a helpmate, whom he called woman.

God gave them the privilege to eat of all the fruit in the garden, except from the tree in the middle of the garden, and said that if they eat of that fruit they will have to die. This God did to prove their obedience. According to the Scripture, the forbidden fruit on the tree so conveniently placed in the middle of the garden was very pleasant to look at, and was tempting to the woman, namely, Eve. Satan, also being present, was aware of the temptation of Eve, and in his deceitful way caused her to yield to the temptation, and take of the forbidden fruit, for he said unto her, "Ye shall not surely die: . . . then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

After taking of the fruit, and seeing that it was good to eat, she then tempted Adam, and he also took and did eat. Immediately after the transgression, their eyes were opened, **their innocence was gone**, and sin had conceived. They saw that they were naked, and hid themselves from the sight of God.

God came in the cool of the day, called Adam, and said, "Where art thou?" Adam heard the voice of God and said, "Here I am. I am naked." God said, "Who told you that you are naked? Did you not eat of the forbidden fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden?" Adam said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I

did eat." Eve said, "The serpent beguiled me."

God did not take their excuses and place all the punishment on the serpent, but meted unto each one their punishment for disobedience and transgression.

Children, too, are a blessing and a gift from God, but God does retain the power to take them again at His will. Parents are instructed to bring them up in the fear and nurture of God.

Little children are so pure, that Christ took a little child and set it in the midst of the disciples, and said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." But soon they grow up, and as knowledge does increase, they also become tempted for the things of this world which throughout the Scriptures are forbidden and if transgressed become sin, having the death penalty pronounced upon them "For the wages of sin is death."

In the Old Testament, God commanded unto Moses that offerings and sacrifices should be offered, such as oxen, sheep, or goats. Yet there being no atonement in the blood of oxen or sheep or goats, left a sad condition of man. God being a God of love, mercy, and compassion, and having no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but that all should turn to repentance and live, prepared a New Testament through Jesus Christ, His beloved Son. It was promised already to the first transgressors that God would send a Redeemer, which after thousands of years of waiting, at God's appointed time, was fulfilled. At the appointed time, God gave His only begotten Son into the world, in the most modest and humble way, so that He should become an example, and prepare a way, so all mankind can again come to God and must not be lost forever.

God prepared the way of the Lord through John the Baptist who came before the Lord and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. The people went out to him, and were baptized of him in

the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus also came to be baptized of John, to fulfill the righteousness of God. And straitway coming up out of the water, John saw the heavens opened and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him. And there came a voice from heaven saying, "Thou are my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilder-

ness to be tempted. Even though being tempted by Satan forty days in the wilderness, He yielded not to the temptation, as did the first Adam. After having overcome the temptations, the angels came and ministered unto Him. After this Jesus began to preach, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: Repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

Thus was the beginning of the New Testament. But only through much suffering, many afflictions, and self-denial could the Lord fulfill His mission here on earth, and at the end bear the bitter death at the cross, and shed His precious innocent blood for the atonement of sin, for all mankind. "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, lo, I come to do thy will, O God." In this, He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."

When Christ died on the cross, having finished His mission here on earth, and gave up the ghost, there was darkness over all the land, from noon until three p. m. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst, from top to the bottom. The precious living Word, the Gospel of Salvation, that was kept in darkness behind the veil is now brought into light, so that whosoever believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ should not abide in darkness, thus bringing into effect the New Testament of Faith, Mercy, Love, Grace, and Salvation, making the Old Testament of the law void. For by grace ye are saved and not by the works of the law.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. To me is given boundless mercy, A gift that I did not deserve, Such wondrous love, it goes beyond me,

That such for me should be reserved, But since I know, I will rejoice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice.

From Zion's Harp, Hymn 220.

"Most of the shadows of life are caused by standing in our own sunshine."

Hymn for the Month

TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE

When I was but a little child, how well I recollect

How I would grieve my mother with my folly and neglect;

And now that she has gone to heav'n
I miss her tender care;

O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there!

Tho' I was often wayward, she was always kind and good;

So patient, gentle, loving, when my ways were rough and rude;

My childhood griefs and trials she would gladly with me share;

O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there!

When I became a prodigal, and left the old roof-tree,

She almost broke her loving heart in mourning after me;

And day and night she prayed to God to keep me in His care:

O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there!

One day a message came to me, it bade me quickly come

If I would see my mother ere the Savior took her home;

I promised her, before she died, for heaven to prepare:

O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there!

Refrain:

Tell Mother I'll be there, in answer to her pray'r;

This message, blessed Savior, to her bear!

Tell mother I'll be there, heav'n's joys with her to share;

Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there!

Religious Customs of India

One of the most interesting and at the same time unusual characteristics of India is its religion or I should say religions as this country probably has more than any other in all the world. It is difficult to be able to write about it in a letter and clearly portray them, let alone the fact that we know so very little about their belief, only from what we have been able to pick up from them, pamphlets, and asking questions of various tours that we have taken to learn India by seeing it as it survives.

The countless kinds of beliefs are inter-mingled with those of the United States, for instance, there is a large and well-attended Methodist Church in Calcutta. I have seen the outside, but have not entered. The largest church in Calcutta is the St. Paul's Episcopal Church of England. I was by it yesterday and it is very similar to the structure of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, huge spires, etc., beautiful lawns, and hedges around it make a pretty setting as the grounds also include pools of water surrounded by tall palm trees.

Then there is the Christian Science Church, Catholic, and Presbyterian, all of which have their localities of English speaking people which attend.

Then on the outskirts of the city and from thenceforth throughout India you run across the Temples — Temples that are very elaborately built with countless treasures of gold, silver, jewels, diamonds, mirrors, marble and other precious stones, beautiful marble floors that shine, and every now and then sets of small diamonds set in them. No one is allowed to enter with shoes on. The chandeliers, various lights that are in the temple are so distributed that they focus on the brilliant statue of Buddah — the idol of these people. These people are called Sinks, the most helpful people in the Indian race for they have built these temples from their 6,000,000 followers. They are a rich race of people and known for being famous fighters. It was

stated that the Maharaja has wealth untold and this race which is very tall and broad, are some of India's "back-bone" for they are very convincing in their looks, costumes and behavior, and dress very elaborately.

The Hindu have many gods. It would be impossible for one to name them without being a Hindu. Their Sabbath is Saturday afternoon and Sunday and their time is spent going to these temples that they have erected and giving money, gifts, etc., to Buddah. Their ceremony is one of the wildest ever heard as they beat drums at night, have big, long parades and all done in honor of Buddah whom they carry, several statues of him around on poles, horses, etc., cheering, beating pans and in general trying to scare the evil spirits away. The costumes are of the best on these occasions and they put on all the colors possible for the big affairs. This is the most common and by far the largest of the churches in India with many millions of followers.

One of the many temples that the Hindu have is the Jain Temple which is the prettiest and most expensive, taking countless years to build because of the wonderful architectural work put into it. Diamonds, gold, marble, pearls, and gems of all kinds are put into it. They have a candle light that has never gone out for 76 years—hidden behind glass windows and opened only when refueled, it is hoped to be kept burning always according to the Hindu.

The Jains, a very wealthy class of Hindu people, built these temples and are very popular in their reputation with the people over here for they have always helped the poor, furnished food and clothing wherever possible, being very charitable and kind to those with whom they come in contact. They are the minority of the race here, however. They believe in strict adherence to Buddah and all living creatures. In other words they will not kill a mosquito, bug, ant, horse, cow, bird or anything that lives. It is sacred to them and an evil to harm it in any way. The good that

they have done in India is unlimited and cannot be judged by anyone. However, in their fantastic belief of bugs and flies, etc., malaria, dengue fever, smallpox and many countless other types of diseases are prevalent here and medical education is urgently needed to make them realize how important is the evacuation of poisonous things.

Prior to the British Rule it was the custom among certain classes of Hindu that when their husband died and he was being burned to death on these piles of wood, the wife would be compelled to throw herself on the burning pile and thereby be burned to death along with her husband. However, since the British have come in, that has been changed and forbidden by law. What a terrific mental strain must be imposed upon any who witnessed the affairs! It was their belief that if the husband died there was nothing left in this world for his wife to live for and so she must perish with him.

The Hindu poor low class people (111) who have such very little money and barely exist do not bury their dead. After a horrifying ceremony of carrying the body through the streets over their heads, they take them to the burning Ghats and are burned in pits. We were there one Saturday afternoon and saw every stage of the ceremony, dipping the body into the Hoogly River, (branch of the Ganges) then sprinkling the body with some kind of holy water. If the deceased has a mother living, one foot is painted; if he has a father living both are painted red; neither of them living, nothing is done. They then put something on the body that makes it burn more readily and the first fire is set upon the face and from there to the bottom of the wood pile. That is enough of that disturbing scene.

Other Hindu just throw the bodies of their families in the river for the fish, turtles, etc., to eat. Water Buffalo and all other types of animals are also thrown in. Not so very far from us there is a place where they throw

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N NEWS N

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pulver are the proud parents of a daughter, Mary Ellen, born on March 27th.

Sgt. Albert Norr was home for a 22-day furlough. He bought a car to drive back to camp. He left Saturday, April 28.

Mrs. and Mrs. John Hassig and family are moving to Medina County Ohio. The sale was held April 30th. Our best wishes to them.

The Frank Widner family are now residents of Fort Wayne. Your Leo-Grabill neighbors will miss you greatly.

Herman Schlatter has been on the sick list again with a recurrence of his previous ailment. He has decided to take things easy and regain his health. Sale of farm equipment and stock took place April 16th.

Miss Dorthea Conrad spent an enjoyable Easter vacation visiting Miss Marie Beery of Rittman, Ohio.

Rev. Elias Winzeler and family spent Sunday, April 8th, visiting at Leo.

Mr. Andrew Troxel is on the sick list. We wish you a speedy recovery.

The Good Cheer Sewing Circle met at the church April 5th for their regular meeting. Mrs. Otto Norr is chairman and has been sponsoring Red Cross Sewing for the group.

We are sorry to hear that our youngest contributor of poetry, Miss Colleen Ann Schlatter, was taken to the Lutheran Hospital, April 28th. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. Henry Bertsch and daughter, Matilda, spent the week of April 23rd with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rager of Latty, Ohio.

CHICAGO

Misses Ida, Olga and Emma Laubscher visited in Cissna Park the week end of April 15.

Rev. and Mrs. Will Stettner and Rev. and Mrs. Albert Scheidler of Elgin spent Sunday, April 8, in Chicago.

Mrs. Ida Wenger and her niece, Arletta Fisher, spent the week end of April 15 in Roanoke.

Helen and Grace Eisenman, accompanied by Josephine Marti and Elna

Butikofer were in Cissna Park, April 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Knecht and Mr. and Mrs. Rich Schurter spent Sunday April 15 in Elgin.

Mrs. Rich Schurter attended the funeral of Dave Wingler in Michigan, March 25.

The engagement was announced of Miss Nancy Moser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Moser, to Mr. Joseph Heiniger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Heiniger.

BREMEN

On April 8th Kenneth Germann, Donald Zeltwanger, Junior Laidig, Mary Klopfenstein, Mary Anne Zeltwanger and Phyllis Laidig visited the LaCrosse Sunday School.

Mr. and Eugene Zimmer entertained all the members of the Sunday School in the Sunday School rooms of the church on April 15th. About 45 members were present. After about an hour of group singing, the boys tried to outsmart the girls in a Bible quiz. It was surprising how much we didn't know, but the score proved that the girls knew a little more than the boys.

Pfc. Nelson Leman was in the hospital in France for two or three weeks during the latter part of March and first of April. On March 18th he injured his shoulder in Germany and was sent back to France for treatment.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI

Rudy Hoerr, Jr., family are out after being quarantined 21 days with scarlet fever.

Misses Edith, Virginia and Leona spent a recent week end in Chicago with Madalyn Gerber.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Sutter, Lydia Friederick, and Marie Butikofer attended the funeral services of Mother Blunier of Roanoke, Illinois.

Miss Leona Wiegand was very happy to receive a cablegram, Easter morning from her brother, Laverne, wishing her a happy Easter. He is now stationed in England.

PEORIA

We are sorry to hear that S-Sgt. Clarence E. Peters was wounded the

7th of March in Germany. At present he is in England.

FRANCESVILLE

Lt. and Mrs. John Wuethrich, Jr., and daughter, Lynn, visited his mother, Mary E. Wuethrich and family during the Easter holidays. His wife and daughter are visiting her parents in Chicago at present. Lt. Wuethrich returned to Savannah, Georgia, where he is stationed at Chatham Field.

Barbara Ann, daughter of Lt. and Mrs. Howard J. Houk, of San Antonio, Texas, has entered the Gonzales Warm Springs Hospital for special treatment. Barbara Ann was stricken with polio several months ago. Mrs. Houk was formerly Miss Bernice Wuethrich.

Cpl. and Mrs. Walter Aeschliman were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Gutwein and family.

Miss Perseda Aeschliman spent the week end at Kokomo in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Aeschliman. Her nephew, Sgt. Lewis Dale Aeschliman, recently arrived home from the European Theatre of War where he had been wounded in battle and will spend two months at a rest hospital at Battle Creek, Michigan.

Pvt. Calvin Swing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Swing, of Monon is now stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla.

Pfc. Edwin Gutwein and Cpl. Sidney Lehman, two Francesville boys who are serving their country in the armed forces overseas, recently met in England, and enjoyed a pleasant week end together.

MILFORD

Sunday evening, April 1, three hundred and sixty persons attended the annual Easter program sponsored by the Apostolic Christian church. Mildred Graff, Harriet Kaiser and Richard Sorg were in charge of the program, which was very well planned and directed. In addition to the readings and songs presented by the various Sunday school classes, a men's sextet from Bluffton sang three Easter numbers, and William Levy's four daughters of Fort Wayne sang a song. Rev. Herman Heuni, the guest speaker of Bremen gave a short talk, entitled, "Our Easter Challenge." During the program, an impressive

dedication was sponsored in honor of the church's forty-four boys and three girls who are now serving in the United States Armed Forces. While a choral group hummed softly in the background, Kathryn Graff read the names on the honor roll and gave the location of each person in service.

FAIRBURY

T-Sgt. Robert A. Bach, aged 29, one of the first to be called to the service from this community, has been killed in action. On Sunday his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Bach, of this city, received a telephone communication from their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Robert Bach, who resides at Forest City, N. C., stating she had received a telegram from the War Department, that Sgt. Bach was missing in action in Germany since February 25. On Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. Bach received another telephone call from Mrs. Bach at Forest City, stating that she had received a second telegram from the War Department bearing the information that Sgt. Bach had been killed in action, the date of his death being the same as when he was reported missing, February 25. He was inducted into the service of his country on March 26, 1941, and received his training at Camp Croft, N. C. He went overseas last November and was in the 117th infantry. He married Miss Elizabeth Sue Lawing, at Forest City, N. C., Sept. 5, 1942. She with two children, Suzanne Elizabeth and Tommy, reside in Forest City.

TOLEDO

Dan Fetter is home for a 33-day furlough after which he will report back to the hospital in South Carolina. His last army duties were in Dutch New Guinea, from there he was sent to a hospital in New Guinea, then to California, to Louisiana, and then to South Carolina, receiving treatment for the tropical skin disease.

Mrs. Sigmund Sorg of Goshen, Ind., visited her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frautschi in Toledo for three weeks in April.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maibach Jr., of Detroit, Mich., have a baby girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schlatter visited in Chicago and Milwaukee the week end of April 22nd.

Mrs. Ed Klopfenstein, sons Raymond and Marvin, daughter Mrs. Aldean Price, and Mrs. Henry Laukauf, all of Latty, Ohio, visited relatives in Toledo, Ohio, April 22nd.

Easter Sunday Miss Anna Traehler and Rev. Carl Baer were united in marriage at Akron, Ohio. The wedding dinner was at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Rudolph Graf. Those attending from Toledo were Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Frautschi, daughters, Mary, Emily and Mrs. Homer Reineck and daughter, Marjorie Ann, Miss Mary Frautschi, and Mrs. Lydia Rehklau.

MORTON

Mr. and Mrs. Drexler received word from their son, T-5 Russel Drexler, stating that he was a prisoner in Germany at Camp Stammlager No. 4-B. He has been reported missing in action since December 16, 1944. Previous to his going to Europe in October, 1944, he had served in the Aleutians for 26 months.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rapp of Morton received official word that the government would take Gilbert's name off their records among the list of the missing; since he has been missing for one year.

Roy Sauder has been chosen superintendent of the Peoria Sunday School. He is taking the place of Al Fisher.

Rev. Joe Kloetzle and Bro. Lawrence Emch from Girard, Ohio had been visiting Camp Crowder in Missouri. On their return trip they held services in Morton on Tuesday, April 17. The following day was spent in Morton.

BLUFFTON

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gerber entertained friends at Sunday evening dinner, April 29. Relatives and friends from Leo, Grabill, Fort Wayne and Bluffton were recipients of the Gerber hospitality.

Mr. and Mrs. Lenord Dubach are the proud parents of a son, Micheal Gene, born April 15th.

Miss Erlene Frauhiger and Mr. Lewis Steffen were united in marriage on Easter Sunday. Receptions were held, at the bride's home, the bridegroom's home in Milford, Indiana, and at Joe Moser's in Bluffton.

On April 22nd, Miss Marcella M.

Tonner and Mr. Truman Yergler were married. Receptions were held at the bride's home Sunday and at the John Yergler home on Monday evening.

Some time ago News-Banner reported that Lt. John H. Schwartz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel A. Schwartz, of Bluffton, Route 2, had been awarded the Bronze Star and a battlefield commission, but at that time it was not learned why the medal was awarded. Word has now been received that he has also been awarded the Croix de Guerre medal by the French government for heroic service when helping construct a bridge across the Meuse river, near Sedan, Sept. 5, 1944. Only 15 men were awarded this medal during the campaign through France. Lt. Schwartz had previously received the bronze star for removing mines under heavy enemy fire. He and two other soldiers were ahead of the leading element of tanks attacking a German town, Dec. 14, 1941. He was given a battlefield commission Jan. 23, 1945, at which time, he was promoted from staff sergeant to second lieutenant. Since that time he has been with headquarters company of the 22nd engineers battalion of the 5th armored division.

Mr. and Mrs. David Kipfer entertained Wednesday evening in honor of Pfc. Alfred Aschliman who is spending a 31-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Aschliman, of Vera Cruz. Pfc. Aschliman spent over two years overseas.

Sgt. Lauren Bertsch returned Wednesday to Menlo Park, Calif., after having spent the past 55 days with his wife and father, Samuel Bertsch, east of Bluffton. Sgt. Bertsch recently returned to the States after serving the past year in the South Pacific.

Funeral services for Miss Kate Schwartz were held April 14th at Bluffton. Elder Elias Dotterer of Junction, Ohio officiated.

ROANOKE

Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Leman have had a cablegram from their son, Charles, stating that he has been liberated from the German Prison camp that he was in. Since that, they received a letter from him personally, stating that he is in a convalescent

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Religious Customs of India

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the dead in an open field for the jackals, vultures, etc., to get.

The higher casts of Indian and Hindu bury their dead with more elaborate ceremony and have a grave yard. We have never seen their ceremony.

In India the Hindu must let others know by way of various rings, clothing marks, ashes on his forehead, his marital status. The women have a peculiar spot between their eyes, various colors and designs, showing they are married, and what religious ceremony they have just performed. They can have several wives and it is not uncommon to see an Indian go down the street with his favorite wife at his side or a step or two behind him, followed by the children by this wife, and then several feet behind his second or next to best wife, followed by her children. All this is very common to them and they go about unconcerned with no outward sign of jealousy. There are countless other types of customs but I am sorry I just don't know them and it would takes pages to go into them if I did. It is very complicated.

Farther north of here is a very unusual type of native who believe in Spirits or "Nots" they call them. For instance they believe in their ancestors, the good and the bad. The good they do not offer anything to nor ask anything of, just let alone so as not to arouse their temper. The bad they appease. For instance they offer cattle, money, food and even their own to appease the bad and try to bring about good times. The good spirits bring them good weather, good food, good crops, and good times, whereby the bad can bring disease, famine, bad weather, and all sorts of other things they do not like. They continue to offer and offer until they find a change and then feel that the bad has compensated them for the offerings. Many and many an American pilot and soldier has lost his life due to such conditions for in the mountains and near them where these tribes live, are famous head-hunters.

If a pilot should be forced down and constantly printing items by and lost in the jungle, he would find himself surrounded by tribes of these people and if they were not at the stage of prosperity and happiness at the time of his arrival, it was a bad omen and so beheaded him or destroyed him otherwise. When they have war upon one another up in the mountains, they actually cut one another's heads off and bring them back to the camps on poles. Then they surround their camp with these poles etc., to show what mighty warriors they are. Many men have bought knives, and various other ornaments from them with human hair attached to the ends for decoration. It is colored a bright red to add to the attraction of the souvenir. Before I come back I hope to have some pictures of various things taken near mountains.

Another large element found in India is the Mohammeds, a race of people who believe in "one" God. They have never heard of Christ, only through us. They go to worship every Friday afternoon and have a large Bible that teaches them the right and wrong. They are supposed to have only one wife and bury their dead similar to our method. The men that are married wear mustaches, the unmarried men do not; consequently, the family is able to tell who isn't and is in their crowded home as all the children bring their wives, cousins, etc., home to live and so a family takes in quite a few relatives. Our bearer is Mohammed and quite a character. He has a mustache, one "bebe" (boy) and his wife works for someone else for board and room. He is down here to work for a living and she some 400 miles away gets hers away from home. He goes home every six months to see her. Of the 60 Rupees he makes a month, he sends her 30 (probably a lot better than some American soldiers do their wives at that).

One cannot go into town without seeing some sort of a religious ceremony. Mahatma Gandhi is a very effectual influence over here. He is not mentioned too much here in camp, but without a doubt, his in-

Letters To the Editor

" . . . I have been receiving the 'Silver Lining' for several months and appreciate it very much. It is very interesting and helpful to me and I believe it is to all who receive it. May you be rewarded for your good works by our Father in Heaven. Sincerely in Faith, Eugene Koch."

* * *

" . . . We are located in a small German village about four times the size of Grabill. The weather has been beautiful and there is some pretty scenery through here. We are in a nice modern house, just about like any back home. Here is my new address and I would like to receive the 'Silver Lining.' It is really a morale builder. When I read it it makes me feel just like I was back home. You can expect the big news any time within the next month or before. I mean concerning the war over here. At least that's what they tell us. I remain, Ephraim Kipfer.

* * *

" . . . I wish to thank you for sending your paper. I received my last copy while we were two days at sea. Sincerely, Edwin Gutwein."

fluence is unquestionably felt throughout India and the papers are about him, his health, his daily conferences, walks, etc.

So that is just a bird's-eye view of the few types of things I have seen here in India. Lots of things I want to forget as they demoralize one and others are educational in knowing how they believe. To us who have our faith and understanding in the Lord, it binds us closer than ever before. For we realize then how fortunate we are that we have Christ and a Living God. The fear of death, and evil spirits are not a part of our life not even to let such things enter our being. May the time come when that which is unclean, uninspiring, and deceitful be thrown away never to return. May a clean life, pure in heart, and love for one another stand in its stead with Jesus Christ just in front leading the way, the only way.

By S-Sgt. Bob Rathbun.

DIARY OF TRIP TO PALESTINE*(Continued from page 1)*

had a seat to himself. Of course it was wooden, too short to stretch out on, with not enough room to allow us to sit forward, and generally speaking something to be remembered with distaste. We made very poor time going over, taking about 23 hours to travel the 380 miles to Baghdad. They stop at every little village on the way.

Spent an almost sleepless night on the train but in the morning we were refreshed by the breakfast unit of Field Ration "K." It was my first experience with this particular type of army ration, and after reading all those glowing reports from civilians who had tried it out for one meal and pronounced it "delicious and nourishing," I was looking forward to it with pleasure. Came to the conclusion that the food situation is worse back home than I had thought, if anybody could find it to be delicious. Each unit contains a canned meat item in the morning or breakfast unit and the supper unit contains a can of processed cheese at dinner. They give the cans all kinds of fancy names, such as "Egg Yolk and Minced Ham," "Pork Loaf with Diced Carrots and Apple Flakes," etc., but it all amounts to the same thing—you have to be plenty hungry to eat it. Each unit has, in addition, soluble coffee or bouillon, whole wheat crackers, three cubes of sugar, a stick of chewing gum, and four cigarettes. But at least the little Arab boys and girls are able to eat for a few days after the train goes through their village.

All the railroad stations are built near dirty little Arab towns. None of the people are clean or well dressed, and all come to the train with hands outstretched, asking for "baksheesh," the old American expression "Buddy, can you spare a dime." Except that these people are not in the least particular what you give them — it's sure to be more than they had before. After watching the natives dig around in garbage cans here in camp, eating with relish the remains of the meals, I believe they would accept

any sort of a gift with happiness. The train moved so slowly that one of the boys claimed he recognized one of the beggars at Baghdad that had first approached him in Basra. But I could not vouch for that.

I started out with a poor impression of Iraq and saw nothing during the trip to change my impression. If the people there had any initiative or ambition at all they could make something of themselves. But they tramp around oblivious to the filth and disease, and I sometimes wonder if they would appreciate a clean American home.

Just outside of Baghdad, and to the right of the train, are mounds from excavations of the ancient city of UR, where Abraham lived at the time the Lord told him to go to Canaan. This is the first impression that a fellow gets of drawing near to lands which were famous in Biblical times.

We arrived in Baghdad about 7:00 o'clock in the evening and were taken to a British camp where some of our fellows are stationed to take care of the convoys going to Palestine. Ate our chow, and since there was nothing else to do we went to bed immediately after taking a shower. They had Iraqi irregulars guarding the camp, and all night you could hear them yelling "halt," and occasionally following it up with a bit of musket fire. I understand that it's a bad policy to disregard them, because their value of human life is pretty low. That seems to be the general rule in these Eastern countries. The people have so little to live for that they don't care much if they do live or not. You can tell it by the way they walk around in the streets. They cross wherever they please, and the driver has to worry about hitting them.

Got up at 4:00 a. m., ate breakfast and was ready to go by 5. The convoy consisted of 7 vehicles, six for carrying the soldiers and one for baggage. The first day's trip was to cover approximately 260 miles, and as most of it is over desert they wanted to get an early start and do as much of the driving as possible during the morning. Have never seen so

much of nothing as I did that day. With the exception of several oil pumping stations there was no sign of life or habitation. The road follows a pipe line all the way into Palestine, which is the only reason for the road's existence. There is no resemblance here to the visions I had of the country—visions formed from reading stories about the "Fertile Crescent" in history books. We saw one camel and one Arab, and millions of tons of sand, but that was all. Somewhere just outside of Baghdad is said by some to be the location of the Garden of Eden, lying between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

We arrived at Rutba, Iraq, at about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. There is a small village just outside of the camp, but the main thing there is the British Camp where we stayed. Once again there was nothing to do but eat and go to bed. After all those miles over a bumpy road, and with a 4 o'clock call coming up in the morning, we were glad to get to bed.

*(Continued in next issue)***NEWS***(Continued from page 5)*

hospital in France recovering from frozen hands and feet and a wound on his neck. For the wounds he received the Purple Heart.

Funeral services for Chris Leman of Roanoke, Ill., were held April 18. Rev. Joe A. Getz and Rev. David Mangold performed the last rites.

Melvin Mangold was recently home on furlough to visit his wife and little son who has been named Michael Melvin.

THE LIGHT OF PRAYER

"I had a little time to spare,
I spent it idly, here and there.
My soul grew dry, the joy was gone,
My strength was small to fight the
wrong."

"Next time I had some time to spare,
I met the Lord in secret prayer;
Refreshed from heaven, my soul was
strong,
My heart was filled with radiant
song."

Kenneth James.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

"A few months ago a soldier arrived overseas who, like some of his buddies, professed no definite belief in an Almighty Being. He reached the lines and soon began to realize how trying it was to rely on personal fortitude. More than once he found himself calling upon God for help. Several weeks went by during which time he remained in the combat zone. His doubts about Religion were beginning to fade. Finally, having developed frostbite, he was transferred to a hospital. While lying on a cot one night his mind began to wander through his past experiences and it was then that he felt the presence of God.

I sometimes wonder if many of the fellows returning from the front ever think of the numerous times they have relied on God for courage. I never did until that night while lying in the hospital cot."—P. F. C., Infantry.

* * *

This was in the "Stars and Stripes" yesterday. Hope you may find a space for this in your paper sometime.

Sent by Pvt. Wilbur C. Hoerr.

MY MOTHER

She is the dearest mother
In all the world to me;
So tender, kind and loving,
How sweeter could she be?

She's been a guardian angel,
So pure and spotless too.
I love my dear sweet mother
The pal that's been so true.

How well she knows our troubles,
And aids us in our fight.
She eases pangs of sorrow,
And teaches all that's right.

She's struggled for the future,
To try and have it be,
A path of love and kindness
A lightened world to me.

A pal is my dear mother,
The best I ever knew.
In all the world or ever,
My Mother—kind and true.
Submitted by Mrs. George Yergler,
LaCrosse, Ind.

ADDRESSES OF OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

Killed in Action: Eugene F. Bahr.

Pfc. Joseph Bahr
A.S.N. 35540894
T. G. 73 D. 99
A.P.O. 551 c/o P.M.
New York City, N. Y.

Theodore W. Bahr S. 1/c
U. S. S. Wolverine
c/o Fleet Post Office
Naval Armory
Chicago, Ill.

Pvt. David Bertsch No. 35894267
Med. Det. S.C.U. 1915
Madison Gen. Hosp. Sec. 5
Tacoma, Washington

Lt. Arthur J. Blume
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 329th Inf
APO 83 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

M./Sgt. Donald R. Bollier 15059597
55th Aircraft Engineering Sq.
5th Ferrying Group, Love Field
Dallas 9, Texas

Sgt. John J. Bollier 15374503
611th A. A. F. Base Unit
Sqdn. "B" (Fighter Dept.)
Eglin Field, Fla.

Robert W. Bollier S 1/c
U. S. S. Chester T. O'Brien
D. E. 421 c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Sgt. Ted J. Bollier No. 35160227
5th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.

A. P. O. 360 c/o P. M.
New York, N. Y.

Cpl. Louis F. Getz 35764521
429 Q. M. Platoon 91 A. D. G.
A.P.O. 149 c/o Postmaster.
New York City, N. Y.

Pvt. Arthur Hassig
A.S.N. 15345299
3502 A.A.F. Base Unit Section A
Chanute Field, Ill.

Cpl. Louis Kaminer
900th Base Unit (A.A.F. School)
Orlando, Fla.

Pvt. Ephriam Kipfer 35909913
Co. C. 55th Armd. Inf. Bn.
A.P.O. 261 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Sgt. Henry O. Kipfer No 35166105
119th General Hospital
A.P.O. 314 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Pvt. Richard Klopfenstein, No. 15328084
Co. F. 264 Inf. A.P.O. 454 c/o P.M.
New York City, N. Y.

Cpl. Wm. Klopfenstein No. 35161661
Hqs., Co. 93rd Signal Bn.
A. P. O. 312 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Lt. Richard W. Lantz 0-2070664
Sqd. E. G.A.A.B. Box 262
Greenville, S. C.

Lt. O. W. Maxfield, No. 0-8-39122

F. L. T. A. T. R. J.
Dale M. A. B. R. Y. Field,
Florida.

Pfc. Richard H. Murphy,
Rifle Range Detachment,
M. C. B. Camp Matthews,
San Diego 42, Calif.

Sgt. Albert P. Norr 35151339
Battery A. 521st CA Bn.
Ft. Mac Arthur
San Pedro, Calif.

Pfc. Raymond Pulfer No. 35325674
Co. C. A.P.O. 11453 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Pvt. Phillip Rizzo 35555551
G. F. R. C. Pool
A. P. O. 129 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Ens. Arthur W. Schwartz
Fleet Record's Office
Navy 128 c/o F.P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

Lt. Harry R. Schwartz 0554459
804 F. A. Bn
Camp Bowie, Texas.

Pfc. Lester D. Smith,
A. S. N. 36421390 A-T Co.
414th Infantry
A. P. O. 104 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Midshipman Edward G. Souder,
Chase Hall, C-36
Navy Supply Corps School
Harvard University
Soldiers Field,
Boston, Mass.

Sgt. Russel R. Stieglitz
Prov. M. P. Co. Bldg T-1572
Station Complement
Camp Lee, Va.

Lt. Gaylord H. Widner 0-2074891
7th T.C. Sqdn. 62nd T.C. Group
A.P.O. 650 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Notice soldier and sailors and their families: Let The Silver Lining know immediately if you have a change in address. It would help us get the paper to you. May we have your help?—Editor's Note.

The Christian's A B C

"Abhor that which is evil." (Rom. 12: 9.)

"Be kindly affectioned one to another." (Rom. 12:10.)

"Cleave to that which is good." (Rom. 12:9.)

**THE
SILVER LINING**

Published by

Apostolic Christian Sunday School
Grabill, Indiana